



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

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<b>DATE</b>	June 6, 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	Approval of the Minutes for the Board Legislative Committee Meeting April 10, 2024
<b>DIVISION</b>	General Manager's Office
<b>FROM</b>	Debra Fuller, Recording Clerk

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommend approval of the minutes for the Board Legislative Committee Meeting of April 10, 2024.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The April 10, 2024 Board Legislative Committee meeting was held in-person and via video conference pursuant to the Brown Act, as amended by AB 2449.

Members of the public can watch the meeting on the Park District's website here:

<https://www.ebparks.org/calendar/public-meetings>

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m.

**I. Roll Call**

Clerk of the Board Yolande Barial Knight conducted a roll call. Present were the following Directors and staff:

Committee: Director Coffey, Director Echols (attending virtually), and Director Waespi.

Staff: Erich Pfuehler (presenter), Lisa Baldinger (presenter), Katy Hornbeck (presenter), Yolande Barial Knight, Yulie Padmore, Amir Aziz, Brian Holt, Amir Aziz, Ken Wysocki, Josh Huber

Federal Advocate: Peter Umhofer (presenter)

Director Echols confirmed that no one over the age of 18 was in the room with her.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of the Minutes for the Legislative Committee Meeting - March 13, 2024

**MOTION**

Director Coffey moved and Director Echols seconded a motion to approve the March 13, 2024 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Approval of the Minutes for the Legislative Committee Meeting – January 10, 2024

## **MOTION**

Director Echols moved and Director Coffey seconded a motion to approve the January 10, 2024 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

### **4. Action items**

#### **a. Local Government Engagement Strategy**

Legislative and Policy Management Analyst, Lisa Baldinger, presented a PowerPoint on the Strategy Pilot Program including current forms of engagement; gaps identified in local engagement; proposed program; and recommendation.

In response to Director Echols, Legislative and Policy Management Analyst Baldinger explained the proposed meetings of cities and county supervisors in the East Bay to obtain feedback on the Second Century Plan and need for support of the program through the addition of a legislative assistant.

Director Coffey requested specifics on the list of local governments. He stated he had been suggesting the General Manager meet with the City Managers and suggested Board Members received specific assignments to meet with city leadership. He indicated support for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Second Century Plan as topics for the meetings.

Chair Waespi indicated support for the proposed program but suggested the need to discuss actual issues with the cities. He proposed two board members be allowed to attend the meetings. In response to Chair Waespi, Legislative and Policy Management Analyst Baldinger stated there was no specific policy triggering liaison meetings.

Director Coffey discussed the Radke Championing Advocacy Award and suggested designing a similar award for local government standouts.

## **MOTION**

Director Echols moved and Director Coffey seconded a motion to recommend the full Board support the proposed 2024 - 2025 Local Government Engagement Strategy Pilot Program. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **b. Recommendation to Support State Legislation**

Legislative and Policy Management Analyst, Lisa Baldinger, provided an update on AB 3023 (Papan D-San Mateo) Environmental Protection of Lands and Coastal Waters, and AB 3147 (Garcia D-Coachella) California Trails Conservancy and recommended continued support.

In response to Committee questions, Legislative and Policy Management Analyst Baldinger explained the presentation format and bills tied to legislative goals, assisting in quantifying and tracking the goals. She explained that the goals were guidelines, not rules and encouraged the Committee to notify staff of legislation of interest.

## **MOTION**

Director Coffey moved and Director Echols seconded a motion to forward the recommendations to the full Board. The motion carried unanimously.

### **c. Recommendation to Support Federal Legislation**

Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs, Erich Pfuehler, presented a PowerPoint summarizing the Federal Legislation recommendations for support including S.Res. 595 (Coons D-DE) and H.Res. 1075 (Matsui D-CA) AmeriCorps Recognition; H.R. 7070 (Stanton D-AZ) Wildfire Response Improvement Act; H.R. 7462 (Waters D-CA) Wildfire Insurance Coverage Act; and H.R. 7525 (Fallon R-TX) Special District Grant Accessibility Act.

In response to Director Coffey, Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs Pfuehler discussed the coordinated lobbying effort for H.R 7525 on behalf of California Special District Associations.

In response to Chair Waespi, Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs Pfuehler confirmed bi-partisan support and expectation for H.R 7525 to advance.

## **MOTION**

Director Echols moved and Director Coffey seconded a motion to recommend the full Board support the four Federal bills. The motion carried unanimously.

## **5. Informational Items**

### **a. Update on Grants**

Grants Manager, Katy Hornbeck, provided a briefing on the five recently applied for grants and five recently awarded grants.

In response to Director Echols, Grants Manager Hornbeck anticipated a response on the RAISE grant in June or July.

Director Coffey suggested calling legislators.

Chair Waespi clarified the HASPA JPA would work on that grant.

### **b. Federal Advocacy Update**

Federal Advocate, Peter Umhofer, provided an update on the House and Senate transition to Fiscal Year 2025 including the appropriations process and reauthorization of several bills; recent passage and pending recreation bills; regulations related to the environment; Earth Day on April 22 and potential forthcoming announcements; November election and races to watch; transition of committee chairs and opportunity for the Park District to educate new chairs; May 13-16 D.C. Conference; funding for Richmond Trail and wildfire mitigation; and land and water bills.

In response to Chair Waespi, Federal Advocate Umhofer stated some felt the House could potentially move to a Democratic majority and the Senate might shift to a Republican majority. He anticipated some California delegates could be Subcommittee Chairs.

### **c. Federal Advocacy Conference Briefing**

Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs, Erich Pfuehler provided an overview of the schedule for the 2024 Federal Advocacy Week, May 13-16, 2024, and introduced new member Josh Huber, Temporary Legislative Assistant.

In response to Director Echols, Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs, Erich Pfuehler and Federal Advocate Umhofer discussed the proposed meeting days.

Director Coffey requested formal conversations regarding exoneration or Port Chicago 50 with Representative Garamendi and Representative DeSaulnier. Chair Waespi concurred.

**d. Update on Site Visits and Meetings**

Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs, Erich Pfuehler, summarized recent site visits and meetings including the visit to the Briones Pilot Project site on March 22, 2024, and opportunity for Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildlife Resilience for the California Natural Resources Agency Lisa Lien-Mager, to see the carbonizer at work.

Committee Member Comments: None.

Public Comments: None.

**6. Announcements**

Legislative Assistant, Josh Huber, introduced himself and provided a summary of his background.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Waespi declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande Barial Knight, Clerk of the Board